

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2022 Interim

November 1, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 6th meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 11:00 AM, in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Max Wise, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair; Representative Regina Huff, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, David P. Givens, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Adrienne Southworth, Reginald Thomas, Stephen West, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Shane Baker, Kim Banta, Jennifer Decker, Jeffery Donohue, Mark Hart, Scott Lewis, C. Ed Massey, Charles Miller, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Felicia Rabourn, Steve Riley, Killian Timoney, James Tipton, Russell Webber, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Kim Baker, Kentucky Performing Arts, President & CEO; Nick Covault, Governor's School for the Arts, Executive Director; Aris Cedeno, Ph.D., Governor's Scholars Program, Executive Director and Academic Dean; Dr. Beth Hargis, KDE, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education; Regan Satterwhite, KDE, Executive Advisor, Office of Career and Technical Education; Micki Ray, KDE, Chief Academic Officer; Chrystal Rowland, KDE, Director, Division of Program Standards; Beth Ratway, American Institute for Research; and Richard Innes, volunteer, Bluegrass Institute.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, and Maurya Allen.

Chair Wise recognized Co-Chair Huff as she prepares to retire from the legislature. Co-Chair Huff said it has been an honor and privilege to serve the 82nd legislative district and to advance priority legislation for education during her time as chair of the House Education Committee.

Approval of Minutes - October 18, 2022

Representative Timoney made a motion, seconded by Representative Lewis to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022, meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

Governor's School for the Arts

Kim Baker, Kentucky Performing Arts, President & CEO and Nick Covault, Governor's School for the Arts, Executive Director spoke in favor of the Governor's School for the Arts (GSA). Ms. Baker spoke briefly to her own history as a first-generation graduate of the GSA program and the impact that it had on her as a young person, setting her on a path to be president and CEO of the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Mr. Covault said GSA is the Kentucky Performing Arts (KPA) signature education program. The three-week-long, residential, immersive, tuition-free summer program empowers the next generation of Kentucky's creative leaders. In 2022, more than 500 Kentucky seniors and 75 support staff attended GSA during their first year of having two campuses. GSA is more than a summer program, however, partnering with nearly 30 colleges and universities to offer scholarships targeted to GSA alumni. Grant funding, paid work, and ongoing mentorships are available to alumni year-round. Mr. Covault also gave a brief overview of their funding model, which includes funding from the state, fundraising efforts from the KPA, and public-private partnerships. Two thirds of GSA alumni attend college in Kentucky, with nearly as many receiving a GSA affiliated scholarship. Success stories of GSA alumni sharing their art and giving back to their communities were highlighted. Mr. Covault closed his presentation by asking the members to consider continued expanded funding for the GSA to maintain the expansion they began this year.

Responding to a question from Chair Wise, Mr. Covault said they have looked at different models for expansion but they are still in the planning stages. The conversation has focused largely on creating more slots, but they will also consider the possibility of expanding the length of the program for the existing number of students.

In response to questions from Representative Timoney, Mr. Covault said they can track alumni through college admission, but after adulthood students are harder to track and acquire data regarding employment in the state. The anecdotal evidence, however, suggests that a majority stay in the state or serve as outspoken advocates for the state.

In response to a question from Senator Neal, Mr. Covault said the classes and applicant pool skews female, and approximately 70-80 percent of students are white. The next largest percentage, approximately 12 percent are mixed race, and just under 10 percent identify as black. He said they would contact the members with more specific demographic data.

Senator Higdon spoke highly of the program and the impact that it had on his son. He thanked them for their work and looks forward to their continued success.

In response to a question from Representative Banta, Mr. Covault said he would welcome continued conversation with the individuals that reached out to her so they can address their concerns about the technical strengths of the dance instruction.

In response to a question from Senator Southworth, Mr. Covault said they had been having more conversations about program expansion to include more students, but they would consider the possibility of shorter programs to address that goal.

Governor's Scholars Program

Aris Cedeno, Ph.D., Governor's Scholars Program, Executive Director and Academic Dean spoke in favor of the Governor's Scholars Program.

Dr. Cedeno gave a brief overview of the history of the program and its mission to enhance Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders free of charge. In 2005, Senate Bill 134 modified the structure of the program and made some changes to its funding structure. The central office is housed in Frankfort, with the host college campuses selected through a bid process. Summer personnel are contracted with for one summer at a time. The selection process begins in the high school, with regional and state level application review. The goal is to include scholars from all 120 Kentucky counties, with 119 represented the last two years. Each campus has the same components of classes, residential activities, college fairs, school counselor trainings, and include rules and regulations to ensure scholar safety and well-being. Dr. Cedeno briefly overviewed the demographic representation of scholars, with a nearly 60 percent acceptance rate. The ratio of female attendees is higher, and is constrained to some degree by the dormitory contracts made with the college campuses.

Overwhelmingly, scholars report satisfaction with the program and its ability to prepare them for college and provide a meaningful educational experience. He also gave a brief overview of the budget allocation of state appropriated funds and how ESSR funds will allow the program to expand in the next few years. Of the 2020 scholars, 72 percent were enrolled in a Kentucky college or university in the fall of 2021. The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program is the largest such program in the nation, and provides a huge benefit for students over their five weeks.

In response to a question from Senator Neal, Dr. Cedeno said he is currently undertaking an in-depth investigation into alumni and trying to get the data for scholars and their post-collegiate placements. He said he has recently investigated the program's racial diversity, and they are striving to continue the positive trends in terms of recruiting applicants of color.

Representative Miller spoke highly of the Governor's Scholars Program and the Governor's School for the Arts as two of the best programs for young people in the Commonwealth.

Responding to questions from Senator Higdon, Dr. Cedeno said the scholarships offered to scholars are funded by the colleges themselves and are valued on average at \$75,000-\$79,000 per year of college. Many colleges have a two-tier program that considers

student ACT/SAT scores as well as their GSP alumni status. He offered to send more information regarding the college scholarship programs offered to alumni. Dr. Cedeno also said he would be working with KY Stats to get the alumni data requested.

In response to questions from Senator West, Dr. Cedeno said the 24-member GSP Board are nominated by a nominating committee based on several criteria to provide broad representation including region, sex, and political affiliation. The slate is voted upon by the entire board in May and serve terms of three years.

In response to a question from Senator Southworth, Dr. Cedeno said the application is available to students in public, private, and independent schools who are nominated by their schools. Homeschool students can also apply by submitting their application directly to the GSP office. The only requirement for participation is that the students be residents of Kentucky.

Career & Technical Education Funding Equalization

Dr. Beth Hargis, KDE, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education and Regan Satterwhite, KDE, Executive Advisor, Office of Career and Technical Education were present to discuss the current efforts to provide funding equalization for career and technical education.

Dr. Hargis said one of the main priorities of their office is to ensure success for every student seeking career and technical education (CTE). The office undertook their investigation into funding based on the Kentucky report from SREB and the 1st Things First report by the KDE. The first recommendation they needed to address was expanding base funding to state goals and business needs. They recently created a task force to explore ways of funding career and technical centers (CTCs) and area technology centers (ATCs) equally. Adequate funding for CTE was provided for in the 2022-23 biennial state budget. Dr. Hargis overviewed the current funding for CTE and the renaming of local area vocational education centers (LAVECs) to local CTE programs thanks to the expanded funding.

Ms. Satterwhite said the second priority is to sustain adequate funding and reform funding distribution to ensure that the schools that have received funding for the first time continue to receive that support. She presented testimonials from CTE educators illustrating what additional education opportunities have been created for students thanks to the expanded funding. She also announced a new dedicated work-based learning coordinator and the new work-based learning manual scheduled for release in 2022-23.

In response to a question from Chair Wise, Dr. Hargis said they have been working with the JAG program to provide a program of study that meets the curricular standards needed to be included in the CTE list of pathways.

Responding to questions from Representative Timoney, Dr. Hargis said there is an expectation for an increase in STEM careers coming to the Commonwealth and they hope to be able to create a custom pathway out of existing courses to address the needs of new manufacturing opportunities.

Representative Tipton said he was looking forward to the future and the gains in CTE and ‘vocational school’ being made thanks to the expanded funding in the budget. In response to questions, Dr. Hargis said dual credit scholarships allow many students to take advantage of CTE and those that participate in dual credit are more successful in postsecondary education, however, they do not currently have any information on whether the dual credit scholarship expansion has influenced students to start a CTE pathway. She also said there are now 50 local CTE sites, which is an expansion from the existing 30 LAVECs, and a growing wait list of schools. There are still requests from districts to create local CTE sites, but they also can participate in the state CTE locations.

Responding to a question from Representative Lewis, Ms. Satterwhite said work-based learning includes co-ops, internships, and work study programs which are typically participated in by seniors or juniors who have completed their coursework.

Responding to a question from Senator Higdon, Dr. Hargis said the expanded funding removed the largest barrier of geographic distribution, because they do not have to focus on only locations that are lacking access. At this time, they can expand wherever there is a local entity that is prepared to start a CTE program.

Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies

Micki Ray, KDE, Chief Academic Officer; Chrystal Rowland, KDE, Director, Division of Program Standards; and Beth Ratway, American Institute for Research were present to discuss the process for updating the Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies.

Ms. Ray spoke briefly to the timeline that was used to implement the new social studies standards, which was accelerated due to the passage of Senate Bill 1 of the 2022 Regular Session. The standards review process committee will meet later this year, and there will be another public review period after the Kentucky Board of Education review in December. She shared a model standard to illustrate the clarification that is now included for teachers to better understand the standards.

Ms. Ratway spoke to the public comment portion of the process and how the review committees assessed the comments. Most of the respondents were teachers or retired educators, although other stakeholders were represented. The overwhelming majority of respondents agreed about the standards, and disagreements centered on location of the revisions in the clarification statements rather than within the standards themselves. This was addressed by recognizing the 5th grade standard as a model and ensures the alignment

of the standard with the statutes and support student scaffolding of the standard. Based on that standard, they created an entirely new 8th grade standard.

Richard Innes, volunteer, Bluegrass Institute, shared his concerns with the social studies standards. He said he was grateful to see the requirements from Senate Bill 1 were now included as a numbered list as required by statute. He also shared his grievance with KDE not following the process to review the standards by not creating the appropriate public comment systems. He said there was no initial public comment period established, and a bias toward positive feedback from the online comment portal. He chose to submit a letter with his feedback and learned the letter had not been provided to the committees prior to their review.

Responding to a question from Senator Thomas, Ms. Ray said teachers were able to interact with the standard and see how the documents from Senate Bill 1 were incorporated. A majority strongly agreed with the placement of the documents. Ms. Ratway said the full data was available in the electronic binder provided to members, and educators said they did support the placement of the documents and provided good feedback that can be utilized in the 2025 review. Mr. Innes said there are concerns from across the nation that state standards for social studies are not strong, largely because they are vague and not reflective of the National Association of Scholars model. He took particular issue with the fact that Abraham Lincoln being born in Kentucky is not mentioned in the social studies standards.

Responding to a question from Representative Tipton, Ms. Ray said the advisory panel will consider the National Association of Scholars model during the 2025 revision. This process was highly accelerated due to the statutory deadlines created by Senate Bill 1 of the 2022 Regular Session.

In response to a question from Senator Southworth, Ms. Ray said the documents were embedded in the 8th grade standard, as well as spread throughout the K-12 progression. The existing 5th grade standard was already in alignment with the requirements from the bill. The 8th grade and the high school standards are time-bound, so they are where the committees focused to ensure compliance with the law.

Responding to a question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Ms. Ray said there is an application process to recruit applicants from the eight cooperative regions. However, the process will be reviewed going forward to ensure equity across the regions for the next review process.

Responding to the concerns of Mr. Innes, Ms. Ray said there is always an open comment period to accept public comments regarding the standards and they are forwarded to the appropriate review committees.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.